



SOCIAL SERVICES NEWS

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CATAWBA COUNTY SOCIAL SERVICES RECEIVES FREE BOOKS THROUGH WORLD BOOK NIGHT

HICKORY -- Twenty teens in foster care will receive free copies of the book "The Glass Castle" by Jeannette Walls through World Book Night.

This event, held April 23 across the United States, the United Kingdom and Ireland, celebrates reading by providing free books to persons who may not be regular book readers. Volunteer "book givers" signed up earlier to participate in the program. They selected their top three book choices from a list of 30 titles, which are being donated by the publishers. They also submitted a plan for how they planned to distribute the books.

Margaret Allen, public information officer for Catawba County Social Services, was one of those selected as a book giver. World Book Night began in the United Kingdom in 2011 and was introduced to the United States this year. Organizers plan to spread this program to other countries in coming years.



Regina Arrowood (left), Residential/Community Services Program Manager at Catawba County Social Services, accepts 20 copies of the book "The Glass Castle" from Margaret Allen, Social Services Public Information Officer.

"When I found out about World Book Night, I immediately wanted to participate," Allen said. "I thought our foster children would be ideal recipients of these free books. I had read 'The Glass Castle,' and felt it would be a wonderful book to give them. It is the true story about how the author overcame obstacles in her life."

April 23 is UNESCO's World Book Day, chosen because it is the anniversary of Cervantes' death and the birth and death date of William Shakespeare.

More information about World Book Night is available at <http://www.us.worldbooknight.org>. Interested persons are encouraged to sign up to be book givers next year.